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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— The eleventh number of the Bibliographical Contribution of the Library of Harvard University is on the entomological libraries of the United States, by Mr. S. H. Scudder. The largest is that of the Zoölogical Museum at Cambridge, numbering about 2000 volumes and 3000 pamphlets; the Public Library of Boston contains about 650 volumes and 75 pamphlets, that of the Boston Society of Natural History 900 volumes and nearly 550 pamphlets; that of the American Entomological Society at Philadelphia, 1728 volumes and 336 pamphlets; of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, 956 volumes and 554 pamphlets; of private libraries, that of Mr. Scudder comprises 765 volumes and very nearly 2000 pamphlets; Prof. C. V. Riley's about 700 volumes and about 3000 pamphlets; Dr. J. L. LeConte's about 700 volumes and 800 pamphlets; Prof. A. S. Packard's 470 volumes and 550 pamphlets; and Mr. P. R. Uhler's contains over 300 volumes and about 500 pamphlets; while the library of the Peabody Institute at Baltimore, contains 800 volumes and 200 pamphlets. Important libraries of entomological works are possessed by the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences; the Congressional Library, the Entomological Division of the Agricultural Department, at Washington, the Astor Library, and that of Yale College.

— Jacob Stauffer died in Lancaster, Penna., on March 22d, in the seventy-second year of his age. Mr. Stauffer was a naturalist by instinct, and a man of various natural gifts. He was born in Lancaster county, Penna., and received a common school education. He followed various avocations, but devoted a good deal of time to natural history. He was a good local botanist, and early made some important observations on the parasitism of certain species of our native *Scrophulariaceæ*. He discovered several new species of fishes; one a percoid, the *Etheostoma peltatum* Stauffer; another, the singular blind catfish, *Gronias nigrilabris*. His most extended studies were made in entomology, and his innumerable observations on the habits and metamorphoses of insects were recorded in large manuscript books, illustrated with numerous colored drawings executed by himself. It is to be hoped that these may be in some way rendered available to science by some competent entomologist. Mr. Stauffer was a man of much native refinement, and both amiable in his manners and just in his dealings. His name is recorded in the fauna of Mexico in a species of tree-frog, *Hyla staufferi* Cope.

— The Diary of a Bird, freely translated into human language, by H. D. Minot, published by A. Williams & Co., Boston, 1880, is very well done. The complaints that avian flesh is heir to from the attacks of their historian, if not always true friend, man, culminate in the following statistics on page 33: In the State of

Massachusetts alone there are annually destroyed not less than 50,000 partridges, 30,000 woodcock, 15,000 quail, and 5000 snipe, or 100,000 game birds, while in the same State 250,000 wild birds (counting their eggs) are placed *hors du combat*. Mr. Minot says that we must not be surprised if no less than 1,000,000,000 wild birds are annually destroyed in the United States. *Hine illæ lachrymæ*, so far as regards the diary of this bird, which if it may seem in some degree to stay this unseemly carnage has not been written in vain.

— One of the reports of the *Challenger* Expedition has at last been issued, and will form the specimen to which the other reporters will model their memoirs. The work will make altogether some fourteen or fifteen quarto volumes, illustrated by lithographed plates. The section intrusted to the care of Prof. Haeckel—the Radiolaria—proves to be of greater importance than was suspected, for the reporter finds himself called upon to deal with more than 2000 new species, and to constitute a new order of hitherto unclassified forms. Only 750 copies of the work are to be printed, and of these 350 will be issued to the public, leaving 400 to be distributed by the Government. The volumes will make their appearance now as rapidly as possible, as many are already in the hands of the printer.

— Congress is showing a commendable disposition to protect some of the great natural curiosities of the country against desecration or destruction. The Yellowstone Park, through the exertions of Dr. Hayden, was set aside forever as a public reserve. The project of preserving Niagara Falls by constituting the lands around them an international park has not yet been completed, but it is under consideration; and the House of Representatives passed, in January, a bill reserving from sale or other disposition the lands on which the "Big Trees" of California stand. The reservation is to be dedicated to the people, and set apart as a public park.

— According to an American journal, cabbage grew wild in Siberia; celery originated in Germany; the potato is a native of Peru; the onion originated in Egypt; tobacco is a native of South America; millet was first discovered in India; the nettle is a native of Europe; the citron is a native of Asia; oats originated in North Africa; rye came originally from Siberia; parsley was first discovered in Sardinia; the parsnip is a native of Arabia; the sunflower was brought from Peru; spinach was first cultivated in Arabia; the horse-chestnut is a native of Thibet; the quince came from the island of Crete; the pear is supposed to be of Egyptian origin; the horse-radish came from the South of Europe.

— The Annual Report of the Entomological Society of the Province of Ontario, Canada, for 1879, is quite fully illustrated,

and contains numerous articles on applied entomology, and a good deal of matter of general entomological interest.—In the Transactions of the California State Agricultural Society for 1879, appears an article entitled, The Rocky Mountain Locusts, their destructive power, how they eat, and breed, and bring ruin, by J. G. Lemmon; it contains a number of new facts regarding the native destructive California locusts, notably *Edipoda atrox*, which was locally destructive in 1877, '78 and '79.

— One curious effect of the eclipse in California on Sunday, January 11, 1880, about the time of the greatest obscuration, was the bewilderment of the wild game on the bay. Flocks of ducks flew into the ferry slips, thoroughly disorganized. Another strange result was that, as the darkness increased, a valuable horse belonging to a gentleman at Alameda Point showed signs of great alarm which developed into madness as the gloom increased; he bit and kicked at all who came near, rushed through a fence and the side of a barn, and had to be shot.—*San Francisco Call*.

— By the recent death of Snellen Van Vollenhoven, Holland has lost its most distinguished entomologist. Kiesenwetter, well known as a coleopterist, has also died. We failed to record the death of W. P. Schimper, March 20th. He was distinguished as a botanist and palæontologist, holding at the time of his death the professorship of geology and mineralogy in the University of Strasburg. John Carey, well known to American botanists, died near London, March 26, and W. E. Austin died in Closter, N. J., March 18, aged 49. His specialty was mosses, and he had in preparation a manual of N. A. Hepatic mosses.

— A work by Keyserling on the spiders of North and South America is announced to be published in Nürnberg. It is a pity that a work of this sort should not be prepared by an American, who can study the spiders alive, become familiar with their young stages and with the variation of the species. A set of alcoholic specimens picked up here and there by mere collectors is apt to lead to the multiplication of "species," and to long synonymical lists. The work announced treats of the laterigrade spiders, will have eight partly colored plates and will cost 40 marks.

— Dr. August Weismann's studies in the Theory of Descent, with a prefatory notice by Charles Darwin, translated and edited, with notes, by Raphael Meldola, will be published by Messrs. Sampson, Low, etc., in three parts. The first will be on the Seasonal Dimorphism of Butterflies. Part II on the Origin of the Markings of Caterpillars and on Phyletic Parallelism in Metamorphic Species, and Part III on the transformation of the "Mexican" Axolotl into Amblystoma and on the Mechanical Conception of Nature.

— Mr. Julius Bien announces that he will publish a new Geological Map of the United States, by Prof. C. H. Hitchcock, provided a sufficient number of subscribers can be obtained to cover the expense. The base is the United States Centennial Map, revised and completed by order of Congress. It is 8x13 feet, and will be furnished with the geological colors, mounted on rollers, at \$50, or in 16 sheets at \$45 per copy. Explanatory text will accompany the map.

— The death of the distinguished geologist and mineralogist, Professor Karl von Seebach, is announced as having taken place on the 21st ult., at Göttingen, in the university of which town he held a chair. He was born at Weimar, in 1829, and has therefore died in the prime of life. The author of numerous works on geology and mineralogy, it is chiefly by his investigations into the causes of volcanoes and earthquakes that Seebach will be remembered.

— In the *Comptes Rendus* for February 9th, M. Pasteur describes the virulent maladies of fowls. He states that the cholera of fowls may be prevented from becoming fatal by inoculation. M. Pasteur suggests that we should seek the destruction of phylloxera by inoculation of the vine with some microscopic fungus, and he invites the attention of naturalists and others interested in the cultivation of the vine to the subject.—*English Mechanic*.

— The Chicago *Field* is publishing a series of articles by Mr. W. H. Ballou, on the bibliography of American naturalists; it begins with a list of the writings of Prof. A. S. Packard, Jr., and Dr. Elliott Coues, and will include similar bibliographical lists of other naturalists. Should it result in a bibliographical manual of American zoölogists, the undertaking will prove of very considerable advantage to students.

— A good deal of new light has been lately thrown on the nature of the Indian poison, curare. The plants which yield it all belong to the genus *Strychnos*. M. Planchon distinguishes four regions as centres of preparation of curare, for each of which a principal plant may be indicated. These are English Guiana, the region of the Upper Amazon, the region of the Rio Negro, and Upper French Guiana.

— The season of summer schools of Science has come. The Chesapeake Zoölogical Laboratory, directed by Prof. W. K. Brooks, under the auspices of the Johns Hopkins University, began its third session, at Beaufort, N. C., April 22d, and will remain open until September 1st. The laboratory will accommodate six persons, and will be equipped with boats, nets, dredges, aquaria, microscopes, &c. Application for admission may be made to Prof. W. K. Brooks, Beaufort, N. C.

— The fifth session of the Summer School of Biology of the

Peabody Academy, at Salem, Mass., will be opened July 6th, under the direction of Prof. E. S. Morse, aided by Profs. G. L. Goodale, H. G. Straight, Dr. C. S. Minot, and Mr. John Robinson, John Sears and Charles Fish. The course is solely for teachers, and will be elementary in its character.

— A new Summer School of Biology. Professors Shepard and Ford announce their intention of establishing a Summer School of Biology at Drury College, Springfield, Mo., beginning July 1st, and continuing at least six weeks. Prof. Shepard studied for a time under Prof. Packard, while Prof. Ford was a student of Prof. Peck, the N. Y. State botanist.

— At the meeting of the Sixth Congress of Russian Naturalists, Prof. Andreieff spoke of the necessity of giving instruction in natural sciences in primary schools; and M. Gerd gave an address on the impulse which could be given to the study of nature in Russia, its flora and fauna, by the teachers of the primary schools.

— The Michigan State Pomological Society has, at the suggestion of Prof. A. J. Cook, offered two prizes, the first of fifty dollars, and the second of twenty-five, to be given to the neighborhood that shows most skill, thoroughness and secures best results in destroying the coddling moth.

— The Japanese Government are about to establish a Geological Staff, to whose care will be committed a geological survey of the whole of Japan, founded upon the plan of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom.

— The second edition of V. Rattan's popular Botany of California has been recently published by A. L. Bancroft & Co., San Francisco.

— Mr. Charles C. Frost, the noted shoemaker botanist of Brattleboro, Vt., died last week aged seventy-five years.

— Prof. Thomas Bell, the well-known English naturalist, lately died aged eighty-seven.

— The following errata occur in the March number: p. 161, line four and ten, for *opademe* read *apodeme*; line eleven for *samite* read *somite*. In the April number, p. 247, line 11, and in explanation of Fig. 14, for moth, read butterfly.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Washington, D. C., April 20, 1880.—The following papers were read: 1. Binocular Vision; Laws of Ocular Motion, by Joseph LeConte; 2. Hollow Water-Spouts and Sand-Spouts, by W. Ferrel; 3. On the Structure